

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 10, 2007.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 6, 10 and 22 as anticipated by the teaching in Jaffri. The Examiner also rejects claims 1, 3, 6, 10-22 as anticipated by the teaching in Newman. Further, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6 and 10-11 as anticipated by the teaching in Sohmer. Finally, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 23, 26-28 and 32-33 as anticipated by the patent to Rubino.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of an additional cleaning element being mounted along the support element of the support portion; this limitation was previously found in dependent claim 28, now cancelled. Claim 1 has also been amended to more clearly recite the inventive lint roller.

In the Action, dependent claim 28 was rejected based on the teaching in Rubino. According to the Examiner, the Rubino device includes a handle 21 and a longitudinally extending support element 12 with a nozzle 33 as the supposed additional cleaning element. The Examiner also argues that the ends of roller cage 16 define first and second lint roll supports.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the support element extends transversely from the handle and that the first and second lint roll supports extend transversely from the ends of the support element. Neither feature is found in the Rubino device. Indeed, Rubino only teaches a single lint roll support 11a extending from support member 12; claim 1, as amended, affirmatively recites that there are two lint supports extending from the opposite ends of the support element. Further,

amended claim 1 recites that the supported lint roll is disposed in parallel relationship with the support element. In contrast, lint roll 17 of the Rubino device is disposed transversely/perpendicularly to support element 12.

Finally, claim 1 now recites that there is a cleaning element mounted longitudinally along the support element. Nothing like this structure is found in the Rubino device even if nozzle 33 is construed to be an additional cleaning element.

The remaining references relied upon by the Examiner are irrelevant in view of the affirmative recitation in amended claim 1 of the additional cleaning element being mounted longitudinally along the support element.


Finally, Applicant has presented new independent claim 36, which is believed to define over the cited art. New claim 36 also recites that the cleaning apparatus is defined by support element with a cleaning element longitudinally supported therealong and a pair of angularly directed lint roll support legs extending from the ends of the support element in a direction at least partly away from the handle. None of the cited references teaches this structural combination.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 3-9, 18, 20-23, 26-27, and 31-37, all the claims now pending, are directed to allowable subject matter.

Early and favorable Action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees are required, but if any fees are required, they should be charged to Deposit Account No. 07-1730.

Respectfully submitted,
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